

CLAIMS

1. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function,
5 comprising:

first tuning means (23) for tuning a first channel when said television
signal receiver (20) is in an on mode; and

second tuning means (25, 42) for tuning a second channel when said
television signal receiver (20) is in said on mode and an off/standby mode, said
10 second channel providing emergency alert signals capable of activating said
emergency alert function.

2. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 1, wherein said second
tuning means (42) is included in a modem apparatus (40).
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3. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 2, wherein said modem
apparatus (40) is internal to said television signal receiver (20).

4. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 2, wherein said modem
20 apparatus (40) is external to said television signal receiver (20).

5. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 4, wherein said modem
apparatus (40) includes alert means (47) for providing an alert output when said
emergency alert function is activated.
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6. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 5, wherein said alert means
(47) includes a visual output element (47a).

7. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 5, wherein said alert means
30 (47) includes an aural output element (47b).

8. A method (300) for controlling a television signal receiver (20) having an
emergency alert function, comprising:

enabling a first tuner (23) to tune a first channel when said television signal receiver (20) is in an on mode; and

enabling a second tuner (25, 42) to tune a second channel when said television signal receiver (20) is in said on mode and an off/standby mode, said
5 second channel providing emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function.

9. The method (300) of claim 8, wherein said second tuner (42) is included in a modem apparatus (40).

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10. The method (300) of claim 9, wherein said modem apparatus (40) is internal to said television signal receiver (20).

11. The method (300) of claim 9, wherein said modem apparatus (40) is
15 external to said television signal receiver (20).

12. The method (300) of claim 11, further comprised of providing an alert output via an alert system (47) of said modem apparatus (40) when said emergency alert function is activated.

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13. The method (300) of claim 12, wherein said alert output includes a visual output.

14. The method (300) of claim 12, wherein said alert output includes an
25 aural output.

15. A modem apparatus (40) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

a modulator (44) operative to modulate upstream signals provided to a
30 network;

a demodulator (43) operative to demodulate downstream signals provided from said network, said downstream signals including emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function; and

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an alert system (47) operative to provide an alert output when said emergency alert function is activated.

16. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein said alert system (47)
5 includes a visual output element (47a).

17. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein said alert system (47) includes an aural output element (47b).

10 18. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein said network includes a cable network.

19. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein said network includes a DSL network.

15 20. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein:
said modem apparatus (40) is operatively coupled to an external device (20); and

20 said external device (20) provides a second alert output when said emergency alert function is activated.

21. The modem apparatus of claim 20, wherein said external device includes a television signal receiver (20).

25 22. The modem apparatus of claim 20, wherein said external device includes a computer.